Z_{47} is S or D;

Z_{48} is L or V;

Z_{49} is N or Q;

Z_{50} is V or I; and

M^* is amino acid 550

A1 cont.

and wherein S* in Formula I is designated as amino acid 420 and the first S in Formula II is designated as amino acid 421;

and wherein said variants exhibits a replication fitness in the presence of a nucleoside analogue similar to or greater than in the absence of said nucleoside analogue.

REMARKS

The above amendments are for the purpose of adding the sequence identifier numbers to the specification, drawings and claims. The Examiner is invited to contact the undersigned with any questions or comments.

Respectfully submitted,

Date: November 1, 2001

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AGENT FOR APPLICANTS

AMENDED CLAIMS FOR APPLICATION SERIAL NO. 09/877,340

2. (Amended) The HBV variant of claim 1, carrying a mutation in the nucleoside sequence encoding a DNA polymerase resulting in an amino acid addition, substitution and/or deletion in said DNA polymerase in one or more amino acids as set forth in Formula I and/or II:

FORMULA I

L, B_1, B_2, D, W, G, P, C, B_3, B_4, H, G, B_5, H, B_6, I, R, B_7, P, R, T, P, B_8, R, V, B_9, G, G, V, F, L, V, D, K, N, P, H, N, T, B_{10}, E, S, B_{11}, L, B_{12}, V, D, F, S, Q, F, S, R, G, B_{13}, B_{14}, B_{15}, V, S, W, P, K, F, A, V, P, N, L, B_{16}, S, L, T, N, L, L, S* (SEQ ID NO:1)

wherein:

B_1 is L, or R, or I

B_2 is E, or D

B_3 is T, or D, or A, or N, or Y

B_4 is E, or D

B_5 is E, or K, or Q

B_6 is H, or R, or N,

B_7 is I, or T

B_8 is A, or S

B_9 is T or R

B_{10} is A, or T, or S

B_{11} is R, or T

B_{12} is V, or G

B_{13} is S, or I, or T, or N, or V

B_{14} is T, or S, or H, or Y

B_{15} is R, or H, or K, or Q

B_{16} is Q, or P;

and

FORMULA II

S Z_1 L S W L S L D V S A A F Y H Z_2 P L H P A A M P H L L Z_3 G S S G L Z_4 R Y V
A R L S S Z_5 S Z_6 Z_7 X N Z_8 Q Z_9 Z_{10} X X X Z_{11} L H Z_{12} Z_{13} C S R Z_{14} L Y V S
L Z_{15} L L Y Z_{16} T Z_{17} G Z_{18} K L H L Z_{19} Z_{20} H P I Z_{21} L G F R K Z_{22} P M G Z_{23}
G L S P F L L A Q F T S A I Z_{24} Z_{25} Z_{26} Z_{27} Z_{28} R A F Z_{29} H C Z_{30} Z_{31} F Z_{32} Y
M* D D Z_{33} V L G A Z_{34} Z_{35} Z_{36} Z_{37} H Z_{38} E Z_{39} L Z_{40} Z_{41} Z_{42} Z_{43} Z_{44} Z_{45} Z_{46} L L
Z_{47} Z_{48} G I H L N P Z_{49} K T K R W G Y S L N F M G Y Z_{50} I G (SEQ ID NO:2)

wherein:

X is any amino acid;

Z_1 is N or D;

Z_2 is I or P;

Z_3 is I or V;

Z_4 is S or D;

Z_5 is T or N;

Z_6 is R or N;

Z_7 is N or I;

Z_8 is N or Y or H;

Z_9 is H or Y;

Z_{10} is G or R;

Z_{11} is D or N;

Z_{12} is D or N;

Z_{13} is S or Y;

Z_{14} is N or Q;

Z_{15} is L or M;

Z_{16} is K or Q;

Z_{17} is Y or F;

Z_{18} is R or W;

Z_{19} is Y or L;

Z_{20} is S or A;

Z_{21} is I or V;

Z_{22} is I or L;

Z_{23} is V or G;

Z_{24} is C or L;

Z_{25} is A or S;

Z_{26} is V or M;

Z_{27} is V or T;

Z_{28} is R or C;

Z_{29} is F or P;

Z_{30} is L or V;

Z_{31} is A or V;

Z_{32} is S or A;

Z_{33} is V or L or M;

Z_{34} is K or R;

Z_{35} is S or T;

Z_{36} is V or G;

Z_{37} is Q or E;

Z_{38} is L or S or R;

Z_{39} is S or F;

Z_{40} is F or Y;

Z_{41} is T or A;

Z_{42} is A or S;

Z_{43} is V or I;

Z_{44} is T or C;

Z_{45} is N or S;

Z_{46} is F or V;

Z_{47} is S or D;

Z_{48} is L or V;

Z_{49} is N or Q;

Z_{50} is V or I; and

M^* is amino acid 550

and wherein S* in Formula I is designated as amino acid 420 and the first S in Formula II is designated as amino acid 421;

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